

May D. Lee, Ph.D

Senior Director, Bioanalytical Chemistry

Limerick NeuroSciences

May D. Lee, PhD. is Senior Director of Bioanalytical Chemistry at Limerick NeuroSciences in South San Francisco, CA. She is responsible for bioanalytical methods development and their implementation in preclinical and clinical drug metabolism and pharmacokinetics. May is formally trained as a natural product chemist and worked in the field of natural product screening, isolation, identification and structure elucidation for 23 years. She distinguished herself early in her career while she was with the Lederle Laboratories (1977-1994) as the chemist who isolated and determined the chemical structure of the calicheamicins. The unusual chemical structure of calicheamicin C_{11} (the war-head of Mylotarg[®]) inspired numerous total synthesis and mechanistic studies from well established academic laboratories.

Not content with the being a chemist, she joined Microcide Pharmaceuticals in Mountain View, CA in 2004 as Associate director of Molecular Diversity to build a brand new microbial fermentation based natural products discovery program. She delved into issues in microbial diversity assessment and fermentation reproducibility to insure reproducible production of chemical diversity from microbial diversity. In 1998 she was appointed Director of Molecular Diversity and High Throughput Screening and plunged into research information management. In 2000 she established an information management system that managed cross functional research information at Microcide.

In 2001 May joined Iconix Pharmaceuticals as Director of Drug Informatics where she was responsible for the selection & curation of literature information on pharmaceuticals, on genes represented on micro array chips, and the construction of biochemical pathway maps relevant to drug action. The process of pathway curation allowed May to gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of the biochemistry, cell biology, and pharmacology relevant to drug discovery and development. In her current position, May combines her expertise in bioanalytical chemistry, experience in information management, and knowledge in the biology and pharmacology of pharmaceutical R&D to facilitate the development of Limerick Neurosciences pipeline.

May received BSc in Honors Chemistry from University of British Columbia in 1972, PhD in Organic Chemistry from University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana in 1976, and was a Research Fellow at Harvard University prior to the start of industrial career. She has 19 patents in the field of new natural products and over 50 publications in peer-reviewed journals and conference abstracts.